

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 13-14, 16-19 and 21-26 are pending in the present application.

Claim 8 was cancelled.

Claims 1, 3-5, 11, 13 and 17 were amended herein.

Claims 21-26 were added.

Examination of the claims is respectfully requested.

**AMENDMENTS WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Claims 1, 3-5, 11, 13 and 17 were amended herein as follows:

1 1. (amended) An apparatus for decreasing the propagation delay time of an electrical signal  
2 transmitted from a source along a conductor in a circuit, the apparatus comprising:

3 a first conductor having a length extending from a first area of the circuit to a second  
4 area of the circuit and for carrying an electrical signal, the first conductor having a first end  
5 electrically coupled to the source capable of providing the electrical signal and a second end  
6 electrically coupled to a destination;

7 a second conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the  
8 second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially  
9 parallel and along the first conductor, the second conductor having a first end electrically  
10 coupled in the first area of the circuit to the source and having a second end unconnected in the  
11 second area of the circuit; and

12 a third conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the second  
13 area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially parallel  
14 and along the first conductor, the third conductor having a first end electrically coupled in the  
15 first area to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second area of the circuit,  
16 and wherein the second and third conductors reduce the effective capacitance of the first  
17 conductor thereby increasing the speed of the electrical signal when transmitted along the first  
18 conductor, wherein the second conductor is disposed below the first conductor and the third  
19 conductor is disposed above the first conductor.

1 3. (amended) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising:

2 a fourth conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the  
3 second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially  
4 parallel and along the first conductor, the fourth conductor having a first end electrically  
5 coupled in the first area of the circuit to the source and having a second end unconnected in the  
6 second area of the circuit; and

7 a fifth conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the second  
8 area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially parallel  
9 and along the first conductor, the fifth conductor having a first end electrically coupled in the  
10 first area to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second area of the circuit,

11 wherein the first conductor, the [second]fourth conductor and the [third]fifth conductor  
12 are located substantially in a first plane.

1 4. (amended) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 3 wherein [the first conductor and the  
2 second conductor and the third conductor]all of the conductors each comprise metal.

1 5. (amended) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 3 further comprising:

2 [a fourth conductor]sixth and seventh conductors each having a length extending from  
3 the first area of the circuit to the second area of the circuit and located proximate the first  
4 conductor and extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor, the [fourth  
5 conductor]sixth and seventh conductors each having a first end electrically coupled in the first  
6 area to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second are of the circuit; and

7 eighth and ninth conductors each having a length extending from the first area of the  
8 circuit to the second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending  
9 substantially parallel and along the first conductor, the eighth and ninth conductors each having  
10 a first end electrically coupled in the first area to the source and having a second end  
11 unconnected in the second are of the circuit.

1 6. (amended) The apparatus in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the [fourth conductor  
2 is]second, sixth and seventh conductors are located substantially in a second plane and the third,  
3 eighth and ninth conductors are located substantially in a third plane.

1 11. (amended) An electrical conductor for increasing the speed of an electrical signal  
2 transmitted along the conductor in an integrated circuit, the conductor comprising:

3 a first conductor having a first end in a first area of the integrated circuit and a second  
4 end in a second area of the integrated circuit, and having a length extending from the first area  
5 to the second area;

6 a second conductor located proximate the first conductor and having a first end in the  
7 first area of the integrated circuit and a second end in a second area of the integrated circuit, and  
8 extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor from the first area to the second  
9 area;

10 a third conductor located proximate the first conductor and having a first end in the first  
11 area of the integrated circuit and a second end in a second area of the integrated circuit, and  
12 extending substantially parallel and along the first conductor from the first area to the second  
13 area, wherein the second conductor is disposed below the first conductor and the third conductor  
14 is disposed above the first conductor;

15 first means for electrically coupling the first end of the first conductor to the first end of  
16 the second conductor, and wherein the second end of the first conductor and the second end of  
17 the second conductor are not electrically coupled in the second area of the integrated circuit; and

18 second means for electrically coupling the first end of the first conductor to the first end  
19 of the third conductor, and wherein the second end of the first conductor and the second end of  
20 the third conductor are not electrically coupled in the second area of the integrated circuit.

1 13. (amended) The electrical conductor in accordance with Claim 11 , further comprising:

2 a fourth conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the  
3 second area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially  
4 parallel and along the first conductor, the fourth conductor having a first end electrically  
5 coupled in the first area of the circuit to the source and having a second end unconnected in the  
6 second area of the circuit; and

7 a fifth conductor having a length extending from the first area of the circuit to the second  
8 area of the circuit and located proximate the first conductor and extending substantially parallel  
9 and along the first conductor, the fifth conductor having a first end electrically coupled in the  
10 first area to the source and having a second end unconnected in the second area of the circuit,

11 wherein the [second]fourth conductor and the [third]fifth conductor are located  
12 substantially in the same plane as the first conductor.

1 17. (amended) A conductor for transmitting a clocking signal from a first area to a second area  
2 of an integrated circuit, the conductor comprising:

3 a first elongated conductive portion having a first end and a second end extending from  
4 the first area to the second area[.];

5 a second elongated conductive portion having a first end and a second end and located  
6 proximate and space apart from the first conductive portion and extending substantially parallel  
7 with the first conductive portion from the first area to the second area[.];

8 a third elongated conductive portion having a first end and a second end and located  
9 proximate and space apart from the first conductive portion and extending substantially parallel  
10 with the first conductive portion from the first area to the second area, wherein the second  
11 conductive portion is disposed below the first conductive portion and the third conductive  
12 portion is disposed above the first conductive portion;

13 means for electrically connecting the first end of the first conductive portion to the first  
14 end of the second conductive portion[.];

15 means for electrically connecting the first end of the first conductive portion to the first  
16 end of the third conductive portion[.];

17 a source located within the first area and coupled to the first ends of the first, second and  
18 third conductive portions and capable of generating a clocking signal for transmission on the  
19 first conductive portion from the first area to the second area; and



20 wherein the first end of the first conductive portion is connected to a destination in the  
21 second area, and the first ends of the second and third conductive portions are unconnected to  
22 the destination.

If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

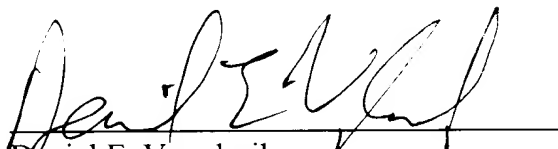
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1-7-03

  
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